

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 and 26-32 are currently pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 19, and 26 have been amended, claims 20-23 and 32 have been cancelled, and no new claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-19 and 26-31 are at issue. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections in light of the amendments herein.

A. Interview Summary of October 16, 2006 Telephone Interview

The Examiner conducted a telephonic interview with Applicants' attorneys Paul J. Nykaza and Gregory G. Schlenz on October 16, 2006, regarding the present Office Action. The Office Action was discussed in relation to pending claims 1, 11, 19, and 26. Several prior art references were discussed, including cited references Allemann, Fayerman, and Fleming, along with U.S. Patent No. 5,373,716, which was referenced by the Examiner during the Interview. In the Interview, the Examiner indicated that amending claim 26 to recite that the adapter was connected to the member and adjustably connected to the handle would overcome the rejections as set forth in the Office Action. Applicants have responded to the Office Action and amended the claims in accordance with this understanding. Applicants thank Examiner Lugo for his time in conducting the interview.

B. Rejections of Claims 26-31

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,109,494 to Allemann ("Allemann") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,671,089 to Fleming *et al.* ("Fleming"). The Examiner also rejected claims 30 and 31 as being unpatentable over Allemann and Fleming, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 299,633 to Flinn ("Flinn"). In the Interview, the Examiner indicated that amending claim 26 to clarify that the adapter was connected to the member and adjustably connected to the handle would overcome the present rejections. Applicants have amended claim 26 as indicated by the Examiner, and respectfully request allowance of claim 26.

Claims 27-31 depend from claim 26 and include all of the elements thereof. Accordingly, Applicants also respectfully request allowance of claims 27-31.

C. Rejections of Claims 1-19

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Allemann. The Examiner also rejected claims 11-16 as being unpatentable over Allemann in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,453,753 to Fayerman *et al.* (“Fayerman”), and rejected claim 19 as being unpatentable over Allemann in view of Flinn. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the adapter element as recited in claim 26 and discussed with respect to claim 26 above, as Applicants indicated in the Interview. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claim 1.

Claims 2-19 depend from claim 1 and include all of the elements thereof. Accordingly, Applicants also respectfully request allowance of claims 2-19. Please note that the amendments to claim 19 were made to make the language of claim 19 consistent with that of claim 1 as amended.

D. Rejections of Claims 20-23 and 32

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 20-23 and 32, without prejudice to reinstate said claims in further prosecution, including in any continuation or divisional application from the present Application.

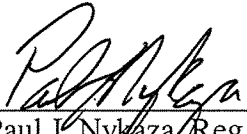
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of claims 1-19 and 26-31 in the present Application. Applicants submit that the Application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an early notice of the same. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney if anything is necessary to further the progress of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


Paul J. Nykaza, Reg. No. 38,984
Gregory S. Schlenz, Reg. No. 55,597
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
10 South Wacker Drive – 3000
Chicago, Illinois 60606
312-463-5000